

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

_____)	
LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,)	
)	C.A. No. 1:04-CV-10659-DPW
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
THE BLACK & DECKER CORPORATION,)	
BLACK & DECKER, INC., BLACK & DECKER)	
(U.S.) INC., EMHART CORPORATION, and)	
EMHART INDUSTRIES, INC.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIM

Defendants, The Black & Decker Corporation (“BDC”), Black & Decker Inc. (“BDI”), Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc. (“BDUS”), Emhart Corporation (“Emhart”) and Emhart Industries, Inc. (“EII”) (collectively and individually referred to herein, for convenience, as “Black & Decker”), answer the Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Jury Demand (“Complaint”) of plaintiff, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company (“Liberty Mutual”), with respect to the Bridgeport Rental and Oil Services site in Bridgeport, Logan Township, New Jersey (“BROS Site”) as follows:

Pursuant to the March 19, 2004 Order in Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. The Black & Decker Corp., et als., Civil Action No. 96-10804-DPW, requiring that the operative complaint filed in that action be filed as a series of complaints in new actions, each complaint restating the claims and defenses as to one site or claim that had been pleaded prior to March 19, 2004, Black & Decker files this answer and counterclaim. It is the understanding of Black & Decker that the complaint in this action, and the complaints in the other actions filed by Liberty Mutual

Insurance Company on April 2, 2004, relate back to the filing of the operative complaint in Civil Action No. 96-10804 and that the intent of the March 19, 2004 Order was that the new complaints and counterclaims restate, in a different civil action, the allegations concerning specific sites and claims that were the subject of the complaint and counterclaim in Civil Action No. 96-10804-DPW. Accordingly, unless the context otherwise requires, this answer and counterclaim restates the allegations in the prior answer and counterclaim that relate to this site.

Further, pursuant to an Order of the Court, Black & Decker will file, in a separate action, its complaint that the conduct of Liberty Mutual, including conduct with respect to this claim, was in violation of Mass. Gen. Laws c. 93A and in breach of its obligation of good faith. Accordingly, those allegations with respect to this claim are not included in this Answer and Counterclaim.

FIRST DEFENSE

“PARTIES”

1. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
2. Black & Decker admits the allegations of the first and third sentences of paragraph 2 of the Complaint, and denies the allegations of the second sentence thereof.
3. Black & Decker admits the allegations of the first sentence of paragraph 3 of the Complaint, admits that BDI is a wholly owned subsidiary of BDC, and otherwise denies the allegations of paragraph 3 of the Complaint.
4. Black & Decker admits the allegations of the first sentence of paragraph 4 of the Complaint, and denies the allegations of the second sentence of paragraph 4 of the Complaint.

5. Black & Decker admits the allegations of the first and third sentences of paragraph 5 of the Complaint, admits that Emhart is a wholly owned subsidiary of BDI and otherwise denies the allegations of paragraph 5 of the Complaint.

6. Black & Decker admits the allegations of the first sentence of paragraph 6 of the Complaint, admits that EII is a wholly owned subsidiary of Emhart and otherwise denies the allegations of the second sentence of paragraph 6 of the Complaint.

7. Black & Decker denies the allegations of the introduction of paragraph 7 of the Complaint, as all defendants have not owned or controlled all of the following subsidiaries or divisions and/or succeeded to their liabilities. The relationship of specific defendants to specific entities is set forth in greater detail below, as follows:

- a. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 7(a) of the Complaint.
 - b. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 7(b) of the Complaint.
 - c. Black & Decker denies the allegations of paragraph 7(c) of the Complaint.
 - d. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 7(d) of the Complaint.
 - e. Black & Decker denies the allegations of paragraph 7(e) of the Complaint.
 - f. Black & Decker denies the allegations of paragraph 7(f) of the Complaint.
 - g. Black & Decker denies the allegations of paragraph 7(g) of the Complaint.
 - h. Black & Decker denies the allegations of paragraph 7(h) of the Complaint.
 - i. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 7(i) of the Complaint.
 - j. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 7(j) of the Complaint.
 - k. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 7(k) of the Complaint.
 - l. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 7(1) of the Complaint.
8. Black & Decker denies the allegations of paragraph 8 of the Complaint.

“JURISDICTION AND VENUE”

9. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 9 of the Complaint.
10. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 10 of the Complaint.
11. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 11 of the Complaint.

“FACTS”

“Policies”

12. In response to the allegations of paragraph 12 of the Complaint, Black & Decker states that Liberty Mutual issued numerous insurance policies, including comprehensive general liability insurance policies and excess liability insurance policies to BDC.

13. In response to the allegations of paragraph 13 of the Complaint, Black & Decker states that Liberty Mutual has not identified the specific policies to which it refers in paragraph 13 of its Complaint, but that insurance policies issued by Liberty Mutual provided coverage for the claim referenced in the Complaint in this action and that said insurance policies are documents that speak for themselves.

14. In response to the allegations of paragraph 14 of the Complaint, Black & Decker states that it has asserted that Liberty Mutual is obligated under policies of insurance issued to Black & Decker and/or its predecessors in interest to provide Black & Decker with, inter alia, a defense against, and to indemnify Black & Decker with respect to, the claims and/or lawsuits that are described in the Complaint in this action.

“The BROS Site”

15. Black & Decker states that on or about March 3, 1994, Black & Decker notified Liberty Mutual that it had been invited to participate in court-sponsored mediation and settlement proceedings in lieu of being joined in two pending actions with respect to the alleged

contamination at and/or near the BROS Site and otherwise denies the allegations of paragraph 15 of the Complaint.

16. Black & Decker states that it was alleged that waste from a Black & Decker facility in Hampstead, Maryland had been transported to the BROS Site, states that there is coverage under the applicable policies for this site and otherwise denies the allegations of paragraph 16 of the Complaint.

17. Black & Decker states that, by letter dated August 15, 1995, Liberty Mutual informed Black & Decker that it was Liberty Mutual's position that there was no coverage with respect to the BROS Site under certain policies issued by Liberty Mutual to Black & Decker and that Liberty Mutual purported to state reasons therefor, that said letter is a document that speaks for itself, that Liberty Mutual has an obligation to defend and/or indemnify Black & Decker with respect to this site, and otherwise denies the allegations of paragraph 17 of the Complaint.

18. Black Decker states that there is a dispute between Black & Decker and Liberty Mutual regarding the failure of Liberty Mutual to discharge its obligations under the relevant insurance policies with respect to the BROS Site, and otherwise denies the allegations of paragraph 18 of the Complaint.

19. In response to the allegations of paragraph 19 of the Complaint, which allege matter that "Liberty Mutual believes," Black & Decker lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of those allegations and therefore, denies said allegations. Further, if, and to the extent that, Liberty Mutual has such a belief, said belief is erroneous in view of the applicable law and facts.

20. Black & Decker admits the allegations of the first sentence of paragraph 20 of the Complaint. In response to the allegations of the second sentence of paragraph 20 of the

Complaint, Black & Decker states that the “position” that “Liberty Mutual reasserts” is erroneous and not warranted in view of the applicable law and facts.

“COUNT I”
“(Declaration of No Coverage Obligations)”

21. Black & Decker incorporates its responses to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 20 of the Complaint, as if set forth in full herein.

22. Black & Decker admits the allegations of paragraph 22 of the Complaint.

23. Black & Decker denies the allegations of paragraph 23 of the Complaint.

“COUNT II”
“(Declaration of Set-Off of Defendants’ Obligations)”

24. Black & Decker incorporates its responses to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 23 of the Complaint, as if set forth in full herein.

25. Black & Decker denies that there are “damages or costs which are the responsibility of the defendants or other parties” and denies the allegations of paragraph 25 of the Complaint.

26. Black & Decker denies that there is “any set-off which will be due to Liberty Mutual” and states that if, and to the extent that, Liberty Mutual asserts that there is some purported “set-off,” there is an actual controversy between Black & Decker and Liberty Mutual.

27. Black & Decker denies the allegations of paragraph 27 of the Complaint.

“COUNT III”
“(Applicability of Certain Policy Terms)”

28. Black & Decker incorporates its responses to the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 27 of the Complaint, as if set forth in full herein.

29. In response to the allegations of paragraph 29 of the Complaint, Black & Decker states that the applicable insurance policies speak for themselves and denies the allegations of paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims of Liberty Mutual are barred by its own unclean hands.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims of Liberty Mutual are barred by laches.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims of Liberty Mutual are barred by its own inequitable conduct.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Liberty Mutual is estopped from seeking the relief that it seeks.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Liberty Mutual has recognized, in certain circumstances and on certain occasions, its obligation to defend and to indemnify under policies of insurance issued by it and has, in certain circumstances, paid, wholly or partially, for the cost of defense and has, in certain circumstances, wholly or partially indemnified Black & Decker under said policies; accordingly, Liberty Mutual is estopped to deny its obligations to defend and to indemnify, and has waived the contention that there is no obligation to defend or to indemnify under said policies.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims of Liberty Mutual are barred by waiver.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims of Liberty Mutual are barred, in whole or in part, by decisions of this Court in Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. The Black & Decker Corp., et als., Civil Action No. 96-10804-DPW.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims of Liberty Mutual are barred, in whole or in part, by its conduct in Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. The Black & Decker Corp., et als., Civil Action No. 96-10804-DPW.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims of Liberty Mutual are barred as a result of its conduct in violation of Mass Gen. Laws c. 93A and its absence of good faith as alleged in the Black & Decker counterclaim in Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. The Black & Decker Corp., et als., Civil Action No. 96-10804-DPW, and as will be alleged in a complaint that, pursuant to an Order of the Court, Black & Decker will file on April 23, 2004.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims asserted in Counts II and III of the Complaint are barred as those claims were not pleaded in Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. The Black & Decker Corp., et als., Civil Action No. 96-10804-DPW, notwithstanding that Liberty Mutual had ample opportunity to plead such claims in said action.

COUNTERCLAIM

Parties

1. Plaintiff-in-counterclaim, The Black & Decker Corporation (“BDC”), is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Maryland, having its principal place of business in Towson, Maryland.

2. Plaintiff-in-counterclaim, Black & Decker Inc. (“BDI”), is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, having its principal place of business in Newark, Delaware.

3. Plaintiff-in-counterclaim, Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc. (“BDUS”), is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Maryland, having its principal place of business in Towson, Maryland.

4. Plaintiff-in-counterclaim, Emhart Corporation (“Emhart”), is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Virginia, having its principal place of business in Towson, Maryland.

5. Plaintiff-in-counterclaim, Emhart Industries, Inc. (“EII”), is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut, having its principal place of business in Towson, Maryland.

6. Plaintiffs-in-counterclaim (collectively and individually “Black & Decker”) are informed and believe, and therefore aver, that defendant-in-counterclaim, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company (“Liberty Mutual”), is a mutual insurance company organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, having its principal place of business in Boston, Massachusetts. Liberty Mutual is engaged in the business of issuing contracts of liability insurance.

Jurisdiction and Venue

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 in that plaintiff and defendants are citizens of different states and the amount in controversy, exclusive of costs and interest, exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.

8. Venue lies in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(a).

FactsThe Insurance Policies

9. Black & Decker incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 8 of the Counterclaim, inclusive, as if set forth in full herein.

10. Black & Decker is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that Liberty Mutual issued the following General Liability Policies to BDC (“BDC General Liability Policies”), which policies were effective during the periods set forth below:

<u>TERM</u>	<u>POLICY NUMBER</u>
07/01/51 - 07/01/52	LG1-3914953-*
07/01/52 - 07/01/53	LG1-3914956-*
07/01/53 - 07/01/54	LG1-3914956-*
07/01/54 - 07/01/55	LG1-3914956-*
07/01/55 - 07/01/56	LG1-3914956-*
07/01/56 - 07/01/57	LG1-3914956-*
07/01/57 - 07/01/58	LG1-131-203405-*
07/01/58 - 07/01/59	LG1-131-203405-*
07/01/59 - 07/01/60	LG1-131-203405-*
07/01/60 - 07/01/61	LG1-131-203405-*
07/01/61 - 07/01/62	LG1-131-203405-*
07/01/62 - 07/01/63	LG1-131-010406-152
07/01/63 - 07/01/64	LG1-131-010406-153
07/01/64 - 07/01/65	LG1-131-010406-154
07/01/65 - 07/01/66	LG1-131-010406-155

07/01/66 - 07/01/67	LG1-131-010406-156
07/01/67 - 07/01/68	LG1-131-010406-157
07/01/68 - 07/01/69	LG1-131-010406-158
07/01/69 - 07/01/70	LG1-131-010406-159
07/01/70 - 07/01/71	LG1-131-010406-150
07/01/71 - 07/01/72	LG1-131-010406-151
07/01/72 - 07/01/73	LG1-131-010406-152
07/01/73 - 07/01/74	LG1-131-010406-153
07/01/74 - 07/01/75	LG1-131-010406-154
07/01/75 - 07/01/76	LG1-131-010406-155
07/01/76 - 07/01/77	LG1-131-010406-156
07/01/77 - 07/01/78	LG1-131-010406-157
07/01/78 - 07/01/79	LG1-131-010406-158

Black & Decker is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that the above policies marked with an “*” may be a part of or incorporated into certain other insurance policies written by Liberty Mutual on behalf of BDC inasmuch as Liberty Mutual wrote coverage for BDC from as early as 1937 and continuing through 1979.

11. Black & Decker is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that Liberty Mutual issued the following Umbrella Excess Liability Policies to BDC (“BDC Excess Policies”), which policies were effective during the periods set forth below:

<u>TERM</u>	<u>POLICY NUMBER</u>
07/01/67 - 07/01/70	LE1-131-010406-427
07/01/70 - 07/01/73	LE1-131-010406-420

07/01/73 - 07/01/75	LE1-131-010406-423
07/01/75 - 07/01/76	LE1-131-010406-425
07/01/76 - 07/01/77	LE1- 131-010406-426
07/01/77 - 07/01/78	LE1-131-010406-427

12. Black & Decker is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that under each of the BDC General Liability Policies, Liberty Mutual promised to defend the insured against, and indemnify the insured for, losses suffered due to covered accidents and occurrences as defined in said policies.

13. Black & Decker is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that under each of the BDC Excess Policies, Liberty Mutual promised to defend the insured against, and indemnify the insured for, losses suffered due to covered accidents and occurrences as defined in said policies.

14. Black & Decker is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that it and its predecessors in interest have complied with all terms, conditions, prerequisites and other obligations of the BDC General Liability Policies and the BDC Excess Policies (jointly and severally the “BDC Policies”).

The BROS Site

15. On or about November 17, 1992, Black & Decker received a letter inviting it to participate in court-sponsored mediation and settlement proceedings in lieu of being joined in two pending actions with respect to the alleged contamination at and/or near the Bridgeport Rental and Oil Services site in Bridgeport, New Jersey (“BROS Site Claim”).

16. Black & Decker is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that the alleged contamination at and/or near the BROS Site purportedly included the possible alleged disposal of

waste oil originating from the Hampstead, Maryland facility of Black & Decker at various times covered by the BDC Policies.

17. Black & Decker has incurred costs and damages, within the meaning of the BDC Policies, with respect to the BROS Site Claim. Black & Decker will continue to incur such costs and damages.

18. Black & Decker is informed and believes, and therefore avers, that the BROS Site Claim is within the scope of coverage under the BDC Policies, and that said policies obligate Liberty Mutual to defend and/or indemnify Black & Decker with respect to the BROS Site Claim. Black & Decker has complied with all applicable terms, conditions, prerequisites and other obligations of the BDC Policies with respect to the BROS Site Claim.

19. Liberty Mutual has received notice of the BROS Site Claim, including notice dated March 3, 1994.

20. By letter dated August 15, 1995, Liberty Mutual informed Black & Decker that it is Liberty Mutual's position that there is no coverage with respect to the BROS Site Claim under certain policies issued by Liberty Mutual to BDC. Liberty Mutual thus has failed and/or refused to defend and/or indemnify Black & Decker with respect to the BROS Site Claim and has denied that there is coverage therefor under the BDC Policies.

21. The denial of coverage by Liberty Mutual, and the failure of Liberty Mutual to indemnify and defend Black & Decker, are in breach of its obligations under the BDC Policies. Black & Decker has suffered damage, and will continue to suffer damage, as a result of the conduct of Liberty Mutual in breach of its obligations under said BDC Policies.

COUNT I - BREACH OF CONTRACT

22. Black & Decker incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 21 of the Counterclaim, as if set forth in full herein.

23. Black & Decker is entitled to all benefits of the insurance coverage provided by the BDC Policies described herein, all of which have been in full force and effect at times relevant to this Counterclaim.

24. The alleged environmental damage at and near the BROS Site constitutes property or other damage within the meaning of the BDC Policies, and occurred during all or some part of the policy periods of said policies.

25. Black & Decker has given due notice to Liberty Mutual. Liberty Mutual has failed or refused to provide for the defense and/or the indemnification of Black & Decker under the BDC Policies with respect to the BROS Site Claim, as required pursuant to Liberty Mutual's legal obligations under said policies.

26. Liberty Mutual is in breach of its obligations to provide for defense costs or to indemnify Black & Decker under the BDC Policies.

27. As a result of Liberty Mutual's breach of its obligations under the BDC Policies, Black & Decker has been required to pay defense costs arising out of the BROS Site Claim, and Black & Decker has been required to pay damages and other costs resulting from said claim.

28. As a result of the breach of said obligations by Liberty Mutual, Black & Decker has suffered great damage and loss. Said damage and loss is ongoing and continuing.

29. As a consequence of said breach of obligations under the BDC Policies by Liberty Mutual, Black & Decker is entitled to recover from Liberty Mutual said damage and loss.

COUNT II - DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

30. Black & Decker incorporates the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 29 of the Counterclaim, as if set forth in full herein.

31. An actual controversy exists between Black & Decker and Liberty Mutual with respect to Black & Decker's right to payment of defense costs and/or indemnification for damages and other costs by Liberty Mutual under said policies resulting from the BROS Site Claim.

32. Black & Decker is entitled to a declaration that Liberty Mutual is obligated to pay defense costs and to indemnify Black & Decker with respect to the BROS Site Claim.

PRAYERS FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, defendants The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker Inc., Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Emhart Corporation and Emhart Industries, Inc., pray that this Court:

1. dismiss the Complaint of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company with prejudice;
2. declare that Liberty Mutual Insurance Company is obligated to defend The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker Inc., Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Emhart Corporation and Emhart Industries, Inc. with respect to the claims that are the subject of the Complaint,
3. declare that Liberty Mutual Insurance Company is severally liable for each policy year for the claims that are the subject of the Complaint, and that The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker Inc., Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Emhart Corporation and Emhart Industries, Inc. have the right to select the policy year or

- years into which to place their claims for defense and/or indemnity, without proration over other policy years by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company;
4. declare that Liberty Mutual Insurance Company is obligated to indemnify The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker Inc., Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Emhart Corporation and Emhart Industries, Inc. of and from all, costs, damages and liabilities in connection with the claims that are the subject of the Complaint,
 5. award The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker Inc., Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Emhart Corporation and Emhart Industries, Inc. such damages as they have suffered due to the conduct of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, plus interest, costs and attorney's fees; and
 6. award The Black & Decker Corporation, Black & Decker Inc., Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc., Emhart Corporation and Emhart Industries, Inc. such other and further relief as is just and proper.

JURY CLAIM

Defendants claim a trial by jury of all issues in the Complaint and Counterclaim.

By their attorneys,

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